Washington Merry-Go-Round

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Mr. X Says He Met Oswald Through CIA Man

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with
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Washington — A mystery witness has sworn to congressional investigators that a Central Intelligence Agency agent introduced him to Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas three months before Oswald gunned down President John F. Kennedy.

The witness, whom we have agreed to identify only as Mr. X because of attempts on his life, is the founder of a Cuban terrorist group that worked closely with the CIA.

The group held secret meetings at 3126 Hollandale in Dallas before the assassination. Not long after Kennedy was shot, a Dallas deputy sheriff was told by an informant that Oswald had been associating with some Cubans at "3128 Harlendale."

Mr. X's dramatic testimony casts new light on the story Sylvia Odio, daughter of a wealthy opponent of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, told to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Two months before the Kennedy killing, she related, she was visited in her Dallas apartment by three men who identified themselves as friends of her father.

ONE WAS INTRODUCED to her as "Leon Oswald." When she saw the picture in the newspapers of the man who had shot Kennedy, she fainted from shock. It was the same Oswald, she was certain, who had visited her apartment.

Congressional investigators have learned that the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover deliberately misled the Warren Commission about Mrs. Odio's mysterious visitors. She was such a persuasive witness that the commission staff was preparing to investigate her story thoroughly. Staff members even speculated, according to one internal memo, that the anti-Castro forces might have recruited Oswald, a known pro-Castro activist, to kill Kennedy.

"The motive on this," states the memo, "would of course be the expectation that after the President was killed, Oswald would be caught or at least his identity ascertained; the law enforcement authorities and the public would then blame the assassination on the Castro government; and the call for a forceful overthrow would be irresistible."

But Hoover abruptly blocked this line of inquiry by notifying the Warren Commission on Sept. 21, 1964, that the FBI had located and identified Mrs. Odio's callers. He named them as Loran Hall, Lawrence Howard and William Seymour, all anti-Castroites. Hoover even suggested that Mrs. Odio could have confused the names "Loran Hall" and "Leon Oswald."

Now the congressional investigators have uncovered evidence that all three denied visiting the Odio apartment and that the FBI had obtained their denials before Hoover wrote his letter to the Warren Commission.

THE INVESTIGATORS have also obtained the tape of a conversation predicting two weeks in advance that Kennedy would be shot "from an office building with a high-powered rifle." The prediction was made by the late Joseph Milteer, a right-wing rabble rouser, who also happened to have close connections with anti-Castro leaders.

The conversation was taped on Nov. 9, 1963, in Miami by an FBI informant named Willie Somersett, who turned the tape over to the FBI the next day. Milteer is heard on the tape describing how Kennedy would die. Then the rabble rouser added knowingly that Kennedy "knows he is a marked man."

Milteer later admitted to the FBI that he had been in Dallas in June 1963 but denied having any knowledge of the Kennedy assassination. However, the informant told the FBI that he asked Milteer after the shooting whether he had known about it in advance or had merely been guessing. "I don't do any guessing," replied Milteer.

BUT THE MOST EXPLOSIVE development is Mr. X's statement that he met Oswald in the company of a CIA agent. The encounter occurred in a downtown Dallas building, where Mr. X had an appointment with his CIA contact. The agent was accompanied by a man whom Mr. X later recognized as Kennedy's killer.

"When he saw it was Oswald that killed Kennedy," congressional investigators reported in a confidential memo, "he nearly freaked out, but he never said anything."

Mr. X knew his CIA contact only as "Morris Bishop," which, of course, wasn't his real name. The congressional sleuths have been unable, thus far, to track him down. Mr. X described him as "a big guy," between 200 and 215 pounds, 45 years old, 6-foot-2, with blue eyes and brown, blondish hair.

If it turns out to be true that the mysterious Morris Bishop was in touch with Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas, this doesn't mean, of course, that the CIA had anything to do with the subsequent assassination.